California GARDEN

10c

MARCH / 1937

Primula Malacoides at Rosecroft Begonia Gardens
San Diego, California

Photo by Marjorie M. Mobler

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The San Diego Floral Association

MEETS:

Third Tuesday of Each
Month at Balboa Park

"For Pleasure and Knowledge From a Delightful Avocation"

CALIFORNIA GARDEN

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California Fuchsia Society

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Meeting held third Tuesday of each month at Chamber of Commerce Bldg., 7:30 P. M.

Toft Printing Co., 1129 2nd St., San Diego

February Meeting

Nobody thought of singing "Home Sweet Home." The Floral Association doesn't go in for group singing, though this might be an idea. But every one felt the full sentiment of the grand old song when, on February meeting, they all gathered together again in their own Floral building in Balboa Park. Such a long time since its walls have greeted the membership. Two years, at least.

The walls were very nice, too, thank you. Everything had been gone over and cleaned up and rearranged. There are new drapes, lovely ones, and new lamps, beautiful ones.

Almost every member was there, it seemed, and some very pleasant guests, besides. Three of the guests were the welcoming committee. They were Pieter Smoor, president of the Fine Arts society; Clinton Abbott, director of the Natural History museum; and John Morley, superintendent of Balboa park.

Mr. Smoor made the first welcoming speech and left the members pretty well tickled with themselves and with him. Mr. Smoor is such a jolly person. Mr. Abbott was so cordial and pleasant and engaged in a small verbal passage (forget what it was about) with Mr. Smoor which made every one feel entirely light hearted. Incidentally the museum is the oldest scientific society in southern California. Then John Morley stood up and every one took him to their hearts. He told about the Floral building coming into the association's possession in 1923 and how well the park thought of the arrangement. His complaint about never having any trouble with the association brought a giggle and then he got down to serious business and a resolution was passed, the Floral association going on record as against changing Torrey Pines over.

Miss Sessions then spoke and gave a rousing plant talk, featuring the perfectly hardy (frost is meant) Australian fuchsia, correa pulchella with its pretty pink bells and silver green foliage; hakea multa lineata with its beautiful pink brushes of bloom; nandina domestica (frost hardy also) and "fair maids of February," her name for snowflakes and as pretty a one as ever coined.

At the beginning of the meeting Mrs. Greer, president, read a greeting from Alfred D. Robinson of Point Loma, founder president of the Floral Association. It was a welcome and witty message. The meeting ended with refreshments and prolonged visits. Ada Perry.

Spring Flower Show

Looking forward to an unusually fine display of seasonal flowers after the ample winter rains, the San Diego Floral Association directors have tentatively set the date of the annual spring flower show for Saturday and Sunday, May 8th and 9th. Any change in present plans will be announced in the local press.

NEW MEMBERS AND SUBSCRIBERS FOR THE S. D. FLORAL ASSOCIATION

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Garden Pictures

The test of achievement in making garden pictures is whether or not there is sufficient character that they linger in the memory of those who caught the spirit of them. The following vistas have been treasured for a number of years:

The first year that many of us came to appreciate the Golden Gleam Nasturtium, Rosecroft Garden on Point Loma achieved with them, a color combination that gave joy to hundreds of persons. They hung baskets of trailing Golden Gleams on each side of the full length of a pathway in the lath garden and beneath them the borders answered back with the richest of blue and royal purple Cinnerarias edged with pansies.

Late in the Autumn when most of our gayest color was gone, we passed a home in La Jolla Hermosa where real thought had been put into achieving a color vista. Golden Cassia Grandi Flora greeted us from the gate posts, a border on either side of the garden path to the doorway sparkled with tones of gold to russet miniature Chrysanthemums and against the house on either side of the doorway was massed delicate blue Plumbago and more Cassia.

Many of us will never forget driving up the winding driveway of the Erskine J. Campbell estate at Alpine when the long sprays of white spirea flung their full blown welcome out to greet us, the Almond trees were in full bloom all along the way, and here and there their white glory was interspersed with the pink of Japanese plum or peach or the gray foliage and yellow bloom of one of the Acacias and real lilacs sent their fragrance to announce that Spring was in maturity. At their feet bloomed myriads of daffodils.

Then there was the year that Mrs. Fred Scripps banked the beds that border her front porch with red phlox and planted gorgeous red poppies on the other side of the driveway to give a warm and happy welcome to her friends. Another year was equally delightful when her Cup-O-Gold covered the whole front terrace and Golden Gleam Nasturtiums ran up from the edge of the bay to the driveway—then the welcome was golden.

We also like to remember when Mrs. Herbert Evans introduced to us the first small silver blue Petunias in a window box at the entrance to her home. The pathway was bordered with pansies and the color scheme was carried into the house with a vase of Iris near the window that repeated the tone of the petunias.—Two Garden Lovers.

Acacias . . . . .

By K. O. Sessions

The Acacia flowering season is the late winter and early spring, and the display of flowers this year will be the finest due to the wet and cold conditions. The Acacias were benefited and none injured by the cold. The important fact to know about the culture of the Acacia is that they should be quite severely trimmed as soon as their flowering has passed and each variety varies somewhat. There are a few acacias that are summer and early fall bloomers.

Very few gardens have more than 2 or 3 varieties, though San Diego has many varieties and there are 150 recorded varieties. Most of these are natives of Australia. As soon as the flowering has passed the seed set quickly. So it is best to prune at once to conserve that energy in growth. They send out new growth rapidly and by September buds are well set for the next season's bloom, but they remain quite dormant until the fall and rainy season begins.

Acacia podolyrafolia is the exception for it is in quite full bloom during November. Its foliage is very individual, leaves less than an inch and a fine soft grey. The flowers extra fine deep yellow and very abundant. It also is a small grower.

Acacia Baileyana with its greyish green and feathery foliage is very popular and a large grower, comes into bloom by February—lasting till late March or April. Acacia prominens, quite rare in San Diego, is the tallest and fastest grower here, its foliage like a leptospermum, and flowers abundant and lighter than Baileyana. Its trunk remarkably straight and heavy, like a telephone pole. Acacia florabunda is of medium size and an ever bloomer and desirable for every garden, also does well near the coast. A. latifolia a low and bushy grower is best used for large hedges, when planted 10 feet apart and is good close to the coast; flowers are like a finger in shape while most of the acacias bear small round balls in large clusters. A.cultiformis is the more common shrubby grower with a superior dark yellow oblong spray of fine flowers. Excellent for cutting. A. lineata, linearis and decora are all small growers and excellent for flowers, and not at all common in the city but desirable. The street tree so common here is A. Melonoxglon, a strong grower that needs regular pruning and its pale flowers have no decorative value.

Acacias dealbata, normalis, mallissima bear flowers that are used for cut flowers and shipped to Eastern markets, principally from Los Angeles.

Acacia pycnantha is conspicuous at Del Mar and Encinitas where it is so acclimated that it is fairly growing wild. Also on Pt. Loma there are abundant groups of natural seedlings. Its common name is "Golden Wattle." Wattle is the name given to acacias in general in England and Australia.

Acacia pubescens is the variety grown under glass in colder climates for choice cut flowers. The acacias are worthy of more extensive cultivation in San Diego because they are winter and spring bloomers and are not grown throughout the U. S. so are attractive to our visitors.

Wild Flowers of California

By M. LeTour

Southern California is dressing for company. It is laying out its favorite garment — a wild-flower gown. I've been a guest out here at many different times of the year, but in none is California so entrancing as in the spring. From the Alps to the Argentine, California matches its rivals in every aspect of scenic beauty.

Necessary rains and warm sunshine have brought up cream cups, coreopsis, poppies, lupine, brodaea, jewel flowers, white daisies, fiddlenecks, baby-blue-eyes, phacelias, ground primroses, evening snow, yellow daisies, owl's clover—all a foretaste of what's to come. Cold weather only retards the growth, while an eager, intense sun, burns the buds. California blues, reds, bold yellows, and soft pastels are combined with a touch to which no artist has as yet done justice.

California's last full-blown caprice was in 1935. Hundreds of thousands of tourists paid homage to the unexcelled sight which probably more than any other California superlative deserves its unqualified designation. A springtime recluse last year, the southern part of the State has recanted, according to undisputable evidence that bowery splendor once again will reign from the Mexican border to the southern reaches of the San Joaquin valley, and from the Colorado river to the Pacific. Its array of indescribable wild growth is likely to be well in bloom by mid-March, and Kern county schedules a festival at Bakersfield where all may delight in the glorious gift.

At its last festival in 1934 fully 1,000,000 persons in hundreds of thousands of automobiles were recorded in the carpeted San Joaquin alone. From all parts of the United States they came, her far-reaching allure confessed by license plates from nearly every state. I, too, anticipate paying my respects anew. World tramping has not dulled my appreciation of the unduplicated treat of this mountain-desert-shore-plain area. One need not go far from the metropolitan area. Along with every fertile expanse, desert lands as yet unclaimed within 50 or 60 miles of Los Angeles will have their share of growth. Wild flowers of ridge and valley are strangers nowhere from February to May, although in some years, such as 1937 promises to be, their presence is more numerous.

My favorite trip this season—for I intend to impose on several of my Los Angeles friends—will be the 70-mile trip northward from the southland city through Mint Canyon to Palmdale on the edge of the desert Antelope Valley. Seldom have I been disappointed with the view to the north and east from this vantage point. Such a thrilling paradox it is to see the desert in bloom against a background of snow-capped ranges. Forbidding Joshua trees, cactus, and prickly phlox are unconvincing villains as they revel in golden carpets which are here and there spotted with throw-rugs of blue, white and red.

Whether in the San Joaquin, Antelope, Imperial or Coachella, the traveler need not go far afield to find scenes to charm him for hours. Fringing the ditches, bordering most moist roadsides, or starring acres of meadowland adjacent to the highway are to be seen poppies, asters, lupine, hyacinths, owl's clover, Chinese houses, golden girls, tidy-tips, bluedick, popcorn flowers, primroses, and others dyeing the landscape in a blend of gold, beige, amethyst, azure, heliotrope, maroon and vermillion. Blurs of pungent four o'clocks powder the side of a railroad track. Mariposa tulips nestle in the very shadow of an oil derrick.

Adobe lilies outline a pathway, and where the tractor has not cleated are fretted patterns of iris, cat's ears, tiger lilies, wild onions, yarrow violets, five-spots, monkey flowers, desert lilies, and globe tulips.

Many hug the ground, some crouching close in great sweeps of tiny blooms. The "rising tide of color" is not confined, however, to blankets of flowers, for bushes and trees dot the landscape luxuriantly. There are bush poppy, creosote bush, purple sage, Fremontia, red bud, wild lilac, buckthorn, and bladder-pod. Brilliant skies, restless clouds, and the ermined-shouldered peaks share in the vision.

Of course, I shall attend the festival in Bakersfield. No one could presume to be a world traveler without becoming a "sort" of wild-flower expert who can spin yarns of this spectacle to awed natives of other climes. Botany books still hold much beyond my ken on the infinite variety of wild-flower growth. But I can't make my hotel accommodations for the overnight trip from Los Angeles until the Kern County Chamber of Commerce picks the dates and publicizes the event, expected late in March.

Actually, the only cost is time, gasoline, and the inclination to stir out of winter lethargy. To be honest, there's little of this kind of lethargy in California, where, unless the weather is "unusual" there is almost a one-season feeling—and that's "out-of-doors." Easterners, scurrying from hearth to hearth, are accustomed to the tale of trees narrating the changing of seasons, but to the Californian the spring mantle of flowers is almost the only noticeable change of habiliments.

So precious do Californians hold these wild flowers that almost every community has laws against wanton destruction of the display by picking. The Nature Club's creed is accepted: "Spare the wild flowers. Let them live in your hearts; they will die in your hands."

Unless one is a poet, color photography is the only way the full appeal of the wild-flower effusion can be retained. And who has ever found southern California weary of sitting for a picture in any dress of her luxurious snow-to-sand wardrobe?—Christian Science Monitor.

Home Coming Party

Reoccupation of the Floral association's new home was marked by a very successful card party in February. Held in the afternoon, Friday, Feb. 26, twenty-five tables were occupied with players. Prizes were most attractive begonia plants and there was one for each table, making the odds generous.

Mrs. Robert Morrison did the pretty decorations. Coffee and home made cake were served by the house committee which was in charge of all arrangements. The house committee is composed of Miss Alice Halliday, chairman, Mrs. Rawson Pickard, Mrs. Fred Jackson, Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. Mary A. Greer, Miss Laura Brewster, Miss Etta Schwieder. If there is anyone omitted, it is due to notes made over the telephone and grown "cold" over night.

A very nice result of this card party is that one will be held in the near future in the evening, to give the masculine element a chance. This announcement is made by Mrs. Greer. But she said bridge and cribbage, not poker.

A. P.

HOLY HUSH

Is it not wonderful to see—
That sudden silence of a tree;
That hushed and listening attitude
As if the spirit understood
Some secret hidden inner thing!
'Tis like some weary court worn king
Who turns from flattery away
A little while alone to pray
With crowned head bowed and folded hands—
Just so this lovely green thing stands;
Or like a priest who, bent for long
Above an idolizing throng,
Leans now upon the spirit's rod
To listen to the voice of God.

The heart that turns from woes which press
And all of earthly restlessness
Stands awed before the majesty
And wonder of this listening tree.

—Murray Skinner.

Begonia Club Notes . . .

. . . American Begonia Society Bulletin

Begonias are on the air—from Coast to Coast. At least—on January eighth Mrs. Bessie Buxton spoke on the subject "Begonias," over WOR, on the Atlantic coast, on the Radio Garden Club program, an extension service of the New Jersey State College of Agriculture, Rutgers University, and here on the West Coast, at Los Angeles, over KFAC, Mr. Leslie Woodruff talked on "Tuberous Begonia Culture." Both broadcasts were local, and both speakers are members of the American Begonia Society. We have already received inquiries through Mrs. Buxton's reference to the Society.

Growing in a shop in Pacific Grove, California, are ten or twelve plants of the begonia, Mrs. Townsend, an old time beefsteak variety. The pots containing these plants are placed on a high shelf near the ceiling, and their rhizomatous stems, well covered with large, long stemmed leaves trail down to a length of four and a half and five feet. (Had to see 'em to believe it!) The owner says that the oldest of these plants are over forty years old. On these the leaves are only on the lower foot of the long rootstocks. The plants are never repotted; instead, the top soil is removed occasionally and replaced with new. Believe it or not!

Are you planting begonia seed? If so store away some rain water—it's very cheering to begonia seedlings. They like their drinks soft and straight—no stimulants, by way of chemical cocktails for the little ones. Rain water, fresh and straight from the sky, seems to have vivifying qualities that other water does not possess. Even distilled water, though softer than most, is often slightly alkaline.

From all sections of California come reports of severe damage and loss of begonia plants due to the unprecedented low temperatures during the most of the month of January.

In the colder locations, protection by covering the plants and by firing of heaters was not sufficient to prevent complete loss of plants; even large specimens, in exposed places were killed.

One commercial grower by covering with newspapers and cloth, supplemented with heat from coal-oil heaters, saved a large stock, including small Rex and fibrous plants, in the ground and on benches in pots, all inside lath-houses, with a temperature of 26 degrees. This covered stock shows no frost damage while uncovered plants, even old ones, near by, were frosted. Other growers without this protection lost all plants in three and four inch pots, at the same temperature.

Most commercial growers, especially those with greenhouses, have saved sufficient stock for propagation, so no varieties should be completely lost. While stocks for sale will be limited there should be enough for replacement purposes and representative growers announce that there will be no advance in prices.

The first, lighter frosts may have demonstrated that some varieties of begonias are slightly more frost resistant than others, but all succumbed to the continued and increased cold.

It seems advisable to do no pruning for some time, though soft, rotting leaves and stems that have fallen on other parts of the plants should be removed to prevent spread of decay. Water very little until growth starts.

This has been a discouraging experience for lath-house gardeners. A tragic one for begonias. They couldn't take it. We think that the growers will not lie down so easily but will go forward with plans for more and better begonias and lath-houses.

The March Garden . . . .

By Walter Birch, Jr.

Isn't the sunshine grand after all the wet and cloudy weather we had last month? When Old Sol is on the job as he has been the last few days he sure makes the weeds and wild grasses grow, so sharpen up your hoe and get after them.

March and April are the planting months for one of the nicest and most satisfactory plants that we know of: Tuberous Rooted Begonias. We don't know of anything that will give one more return for the money and energy expended than these bulbs. The bulbs planted in March will start flowering in June and keep steadily at it until the end of September. Tuberous Begonias prefer a sandy loam with a liberal addition of leaf mould. For outside beds, plant in a shaded location, covering the bulbs about one-half inch. It is just as well to have the bulbs sprouted before planting. This is easily accomplished by placing the tubers in a little damp moss or peat mull and keeping them there for a week or so. Water very lightly until the growth is well started, then keep the bed good and moist. After the plants have quit blooming and the tops have died down, lift the bulbs and store in dry sand, in a cool location. Tuberous Begonias make grand pot plants and should be planted in not less than five inch pots, using a liberal supply of leaf mould in the potting mixture. These flowers come in a number of different types; namely the single, the double Camellia flowered or plain double, and then the Frilled Double or Ruffled. The Hanging Basket type are also very useful for lath houses.

Dahlias may also be planted in March, April and May, preferably April or May rather than earlier. Dahlias thrive best in a well mulched soil with good drainage, in a sunny location. Thoroughly spade under a generous dressing of stable manure or peat mull. Set bulbs from 20 to 36 inches apart, according to the type of Dahlia. Dig small basin-like holes five or six inches deep and lay tuber flat in bottom covering one to two inches, then as the plants come up gradually fill the soil in around the sprout until you have the ground level. Put a good strong Redwood stake firmly in the ground at the sprout end of the bulb before covering it to prevent injury to the sprout. Work a small amount of good plant food into the soil around the plant once every three weeks or so.

Gladiolus, Canna and Tuberose bulbs may also be planted this month. Seeds of the following may be sown in the open ground: Acroclinum, Ageratum, Sweet Alyssum, Snapdragon, Arctotis or African Lilac Daisy, Amaranthus, Molten Fire, Balsam, Brachycome or Swan River Daisy, Calendula, Calliopsis, Candytuft, Sweet Sultan, Bachelor Buttons, Annual Chrysanthemums or Painted Daisy, early flowering Cosmos including the new Orange Flare or early Klondyke Cosmos, Double Daisies, Godetia including the single Duke of York, Gypsophilla or Baby's Breath, Larkspur, Linum, Lupin, French Marigold; the Royal Scot is a little different; Mignonette, Nasturtiums, Nemesia, Nemophilla, Nigella, Phlox Drummondii, Poppy, Scabiosa, Sunflower and Sweet Peas.

Sow in seed boxes or with some protection for transplanting later: Anemone; Asters, be sure and get the wilt resistant strains; Begonias, bedding; Columbine, Canterbury Bells, Coreopsis, Cyclamen, Dahlia, one gets some very interesting things from seed; Gaillardia, Gerbera, Heliotrope, Hunnemannia, Lobelia, Matricaria, Myosotis, Pentstemon, Petunia, Shasta Daisy, Statice, Sweet William, Verbena, Viola, Wallflower and Zinnias, both the giants and Lilliput or Pompon.

Vegetables: carrots, turnips, beets, cabbage, broccoli, beans, cucumbers, squash, watermelons, muskmelons or cantaloupes, okra, onions, peppers, potatoes, pumpkin, tomatoes and turnips.

The Wild Garden

There is a new book on wild flowers,—just out. It is Margaret McKenny's "The Wild Garden" (Garden City, Doubleday, $1.00), and though it is written for the East it contains much information for California. The plants in the list of "Suggestions for a Wild Garden in Western Oregon and Washington" could, with only three or four omissions, be used by any one gardening with natives in this state, for almost every plant in the list is indigenous to California too and particularly well adapted to the Redwood type of wild flower garden. Other lists in the book are also valuable for us:—plants for the small wild garden, for the pond and the marsh, the dry sandy bank, the seaside garden and so on.

After all the essentials of wild flower gardening are much the same. Whatever the locality, there is the same approach to the questions of soil, propagation, arrangement, the fitting of the plant into its new home.

The thing I like best about Margaret McKenny's book is that she has caught the spirit. She knows and puts on record that very definite line of demarcation between gardening with exotics and gardening with natives. The mere names of the chapters tell you that and the text gives thoughtful and useful elucidation:—"The Small Wild Garden;" "The Wild Garden by the House;" "The Acid Soil Garden;" "Plants of the Hemlock Woods" (which last we could translate into "Plants for the Redwoods").

—Lester Rowntree,
Carmel, California.

The spring meeting of the California Garden Clubs, Inc., will be held at Laguna Beach, April 9th, 10th, and 11th.

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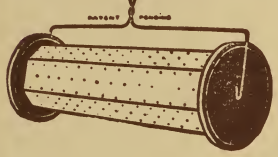

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Question Box . . .

By R. R. McLean

QUESTION: Will you kindly tell me if this is the proper time to plant sweet peas? I missed planting mine in the fall and now want some for spring bloom. How long will it take from seed planting to bloom? Thank you.

K. S.

ANSWER: Although sweet peas can be planted practically all the year with the possible exception of November and December, there are two periods that are perhaps more suitable than others—early spring and early fall. Early fall planting produces strong, well-rooted plants for winter blooming, while early spring planting will bring late spring or early summer flowers. Although sweet peas will germinate in the winter, yet if the season happens to be wet and cold, the plants will not root deeply nor produce strong shoots and abundant flowers. Plants grown from early spring planting, moreover, will bloom about as soon as those planted two months earlier. Of course, it should be remembered that special strains of sweet peas have been developed for special conditions and this extends the range and possibilities of planting somewhat.

It is impossible to lay down a definite period for blooming after planting, so much depends upon type of soil and weather conditions. It would be safe to allow from three to four months, however.

QUESTION: Would like very much to know how gypsum influences plants and the soil. One sees so many recommendations to use it. Please advise.

S. L. P.

ANSWER: Gypsum contains both sulphur and lime or calcium. Both sulphur and calcium are necessary for plant growth although ordinarily most soils contain a sufficient quantity without the addition of more. Some crops demand more sulphur than do others, however. Gypsum has a very decided chemical action on various compounds in the soil, such as liberating postash and phosphoric acid to plants and making them available for use. Gypsum has the very valuable property of flocculating the clay particles of stiff clays and adobes entirely changing the structure of such soils and rendering them more pervious to air and water and making them easier to till. This substance is also valuable in changing black alkali (if and when present) in soils to a different form leached out more easily. Gypsum does not in any way sweeten soil and has no direct effect, in that connection on sour or acid soils. Large quantities of gypsum, because of the presence of sulphur might possibly cause soils to become even more acid.

QUESTION: What can I use on my lawn to bring out the green quickly? It has not been looking very well and I want to bring it out. Do not want to use fertilizer.

C. J. B.

ANSWER: Presumably you do not want to use animal fertilizers, as nothing can be done to give the lawn new life without fertilizer of some sort. For quick results you can use blood and bone, sulphate of ammonia or nitrate of lime, any one of which is readily obtainable. Nitrate of lime and sulphate of ammonia are very quickly available, being used by the grass almost immediately. Blood and

(Continued on Page 8)

Dewey Kelly
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Close To Intersection At Foot of Rose Canyon

Memories of a Garden . .

By Alice Mary Greer

A doorway, whose atmosphere suggests repose,—for do not doors and doorways, truly possess distinct personality traits—, opens from the low-toned interior to the balcony, where footsteps are involuntarily halted by the magnificence of the masterpiece, a natural picture, flashing in the sunlight.

The inimitable Italian blue of bay and ocean, the gray and silver of the Strand, the violet of the caressing mountains, the soft curve and sweep of the shorelines, edged with white breakers; in the immediate foreground, a garden leading down the gentle incline to the very edge of the mauve-toned palisades, that dip to the bay shoreline; overhead the blue dome of the heavens—This is the picture. The beauty of it all releases the spirit from the earthy.

The gentle, grass path leading down from the terrace is wide and easy to tread, so that in sauntering down it, we may devote our entire attention to the view and to the garden, with never a thought to any step tricking stepping stones. An enticing bench, which in its simple decorative design, returns the colors of the sea and of the garden, beckons us from the end of the path. It lures us between wide flower borders, which flank sweeps of lawn. The lawn, in turn, carries our eyes to the flowering shrubs and higher trees in the side background to right and to left. Such a joyous blending of dainty colors and such a profusion of blooms in that border!

The bench has won in its appeal. We sit with our back to the Pacific and wonder what it is about the garden that suggests the soul satisfying feeling. It is that, as in all true art, nothing is obvious, and yet all elements are present and are harmonious? The design follows the rectangular plan, in pleasing proportions. There is a pleasing absence of any "ginger-bread" effects. The restfulness of simplicty is here beautifully demonstrated. All lines lead the eye and the spirit in two main directions. As we sit, they carry us back up the barely perceptible slope to the terrace and the house, and, oh yes, there is our hospitable door, which on the exterior, happily returns the blue of the Pacific and is flanked by touches of blue on the window sashes. In the other direction, the lines all draw our attention to focus on the open vista of sea, Strand, and mountains. What a joy that there are no high shrubs or trees planted on the brow of the palisades to come between the view and the gazer!

What is there about the mingling of those many blooms in the borders that is so pleasing? Innumerable soft old rose opium poppies, varihued bachelor buttons, larksprus, d a i s i e s, scabiosa, snapdragons, stocks, roses, in the borders and in groups in the background. Yes, they are all here, dancing together in happy unison. Blue predominates, but does not overbalance. No one plant, no one color says, "Behold, I am here." There is almost an absence of red. Somehow, the white, violets, blues and rose tints tie in with the wide expanse of natural blues and grays as nothing else would.

A fig tree, a few citrus trees, a possible avocado tree, a bit of mint and of parsley for the breakfast trap, some old English lavendar, a secluded lathhouse, tucked away in an L of the garden, a bird bath and a bird feeding tray, within vision and reach of the breakfast room do for the garden just what such things always do; give it that touch of the home and of the heart.

Lo, love, repose, and joy, these three, have been born into this garden and there abide!

Think you an artist would rejoice to paint the whole, or miniature parts of the whole of our garden? An artist family has, erstwhile, created this living picture not on canvas, but on the "good brown" earth.

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Camellias . . . .

By K. O. Sessions

This fine foliaged shrub is a winter and spring bloomer and is therefore worthy of more generous cultivation in San Diego. It is a native of China and Japan and the many varieties that are now in cultivation along the coast in California is exceptionally generous. Many shades of red, very double and single, variegated red and white, choice pinks in various shades, pink and white, different whites very double, semi-double and singles. There are also those that have a vining habit. They are rather slow growers—but many old specimens are often 12 to 15 feet high or even higher. Slow growth is an asset. They require a heavy shade; beneath a large oak tree is a perfect location. Also always on the north side of a house or high wall or beneath a well shaded lath house. Good soil, well drained, plenty of leafmould and peat; fertilize with cotton seed meal during the growing season and water well. They stand plenty of cold weather so this winter in San Diego they have been flourishing. Their foliage is so very glossy and handsome they make beautiful specimen plants and require very little if any pruning. Plants in 6 and 8 inch pots 12 to 18 inches high retail at 75c to $1.50 or $2.00 depending on the variety and size, but the standard pinks, reds and whites can be bought at the lower prices and will in 2 years give many blooms and double in size. Larger plants bearing many flowers sell from $3 to $5. Large plants can be moved safely.

The Pink Perfection, Alba plena (the finest white) Cheerful and Campbell are red ones, also the Rainy Sun is red and a vigorous grower and bloomer. Chandleri the largest flower is red with a white mixed center, is a slower grower but a very free bloomer. Jordan's Pride is a beautiful full pink and white variety. Some nurseries list 40 to 50 varieties and each year the Camellia is more popular. Sacramento city is known as the Camellia City and they hold a fine show each year offering prizes for collections and fine cut flower arrangements.

The Camellia is grown in abundance in Mexico City and is a popular cut flower for the tourists. In the colder climates of the U. S. they must be grown under glass so are expensive winter cut flowers. Most of them are without perfume but keep well as a cut flower. Balboa Park needs to grow a good collection.

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Question Box

(Continued from Page 6)

bone are a little slower to act but last over a longer period.

Sulphate of ammonia and nitrate of lime are both quite strong and will burn the grass if not used carefully. Perhaps the best way to distribute them evenly is to dissolve a handful of either in a two gallon sprinkler can of water and apply by hand. The lawn can then be sprinkled in order to carry the fertilizer to the roots. A repeat can be made in 2 or 3 weeks if desired. Blood and bone can be scattered by hand and irrigated in.

If your lawn has been somewhat neglected and is full of Bermuda grass, you would probably get better results if you renovated it first, raking and re-raking and cutting off the long runners. A special cutting rake is made for this purpose. It is also a good time to sow fresh seed, if necessary, although you could not use either sulphate of ammonia or nitrate of lime when the lawn is being re-seeded. The seed either would not germinate in the presence of such an active fertilizer or else after it sprouted the young grass would die. Possibly it would be better to use your fertilizer now, if you want immediate action, and re-seed a few weeks later.

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Heating With Ice . . .

Heated with a coating of ice—paradoxical though it may seem—cut flowers with the blooms in perfect condition were received from the west coast in a recent shipment to Durward F. Fisher, refrigeration specialist of the Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

With the rapid transportation of air express and the "heating by ice" process worked out by the department's specialists, the easterner may step into a florist shop and buy a corsage of sweet peas, or orchids, for his lady and a gardenia for his own boutonniere—all plucked from an outdoor garden in California only a few hours before.

Shipping flowers via air express isn't exactly a new thing, but it has been fraught with danger to the flowers during the winter months. Frigid air encountered on the transcontinental trip was likely to freeze the blooms which are carried in unheated compartments. Ordinary wrapping and insulation failed to protect the flowers from severe freezing encountered at the high altitudes. Express company officials came to Mr. Fisher recently for advice.

Having experimented with the winter shipment of pears, in which the "heating with ice" process was used, Mr. Fisher knew that the flowers could be protected to a point just above freezing and held at this ideal temperature for several hours by taking advantage of the heat liberated when water freezes. The Railway Express Company, which handles this business, arranged with a commercial florist in San Francisco to pack the flowers according to the Bureau's suggestions so as to get the benefit of "the heat of fusion" of water, which is the technical term for the fundamental principle employed.

First the flowers were packed in the ordinary shipping box which was then wrapped tightly with wax paper, then in 30 thicknesses of ordinary newspaper that had soaked up about ten pounds of water. This was then wrapped in wax paper again to keep the moisture in, and then was slipped into a corrugated paperboard shipping box which was bundled with 15 thicknesses of ordinary newsprint and one thickness of heavy wrapping paper.

The first leg of the air journey is over a wide mountainous region in which the planes must fly at a high altitude where the cold is intense. Recording thermometers were placed both inside and outside the package.

The outside thermometer showed that the temperature soon sank to 4 degrees above zero and held at a dangerously low temperature from four to six hours. Then it rose gradually as the Great Plains with their extreme cold wave were left behind.

Soon after reaching the cold rarefied atmosphere the water-soaked paper started freezing. This liberated the latent heat of fusion of the water. This heat was slowly released inside the package and was retained there by the outside wrapping or insulation of the dry newspapers. This kept the flowers at a safe temperature. Through preliminary laboratory tests which were conducted before the trial shipment it was learned that the method is effective in protecting packages of flowers wrapped in this way for a period longer than is ordinarily required for a plane to fly from San Francisco to New York.

Although it may take a physicist to understand the process thoroughly the thermometer packed on the inside with the flowers told an easily comprehensible story when the flowers were unwrapped at Washington, D. C., after plane ride from San Francisco via Seattle, Chicago and Cleveland. The recording instrument showed that the temperature dropped to 32 degrees inside the package and remained at this temperature for the cold part of the trip, regardless of the lower outside temperature. A temperature of 30 degrees would have frozen the flowers, Mr. Fisher explained, but as long as the thermometer held at 32 degrees the blooms were perfectly safe.

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